

EPA SUPERFUND UPDATE – HURRICANE HARVEY

U.S. Oil Recovery

Post-Hurricane Harvey cleanup work continues at the U.S. Oil Recovery Superfund site to address impacts from Hurricane Harvey. No black-oily material found off site in nearby Vince Bayou.

The EPA conducted an on-site inspection on September 4, 2017 to assess the site conditions post-storm making landfall. The responsible party has been directed to sample the water standing in the open tanks and remove the excess storm water from the site. The responsible party has conducted operations to remove the excess water, and ensure that all materials in the former wastewater treatment tanks is secured. These activities will continue until completed. On September 13, EPA On-scene coordinator conducted an inspection of nearby Vince Bayou and did not find any evidence of a black oily discharge or material from the site.

Groundwater samples were taken on September 8, 2017. Common pesticides, metals, and acetone were detected in the samples. Acetone is a common laboratory contaminant which may explain its' presence. Currently, the groundwater is not used as a drinking water source. Soil samples were taken on September 8, 2017. Poly-aromatic hydrocarbons, Semi-volatile organic compounds, volatile organic compounds, and metals were detected. Access is restricted to the site. Therefore, there are no anticipated exposure routes impacting the public.

Sampling is part of the ongoing remedial investigation and a feasibility study will result in setting appropriate cleanup goals for this site. The remedial investigation (RI) serves as the mechanism for collecting data to characterize site conditions, determine the nature of the waste, assess risk to human health and the environment, and conduct treatability testing to evaluate the potential performance and cost of the treatment technologies that are being considered. The feasibility study (FS) is the mechanism for the development, screening, and detailed evaluation of alternative remedial actions.